

SCRANTON TRIBUNE  
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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, MAY 7, 1894.

SEVERAL MONTHS ago, councils, we believe, passed a resolution requiring those whose duty it is to patch the asphalt paving on Lackawanna avenue, between the street car tracks, to remedy existing defects within thirty days. What has been done, if anything, in this matter?

Harbingers of Trouble. One of the first effects of the mistaken leniency of Governor Altgeld in pardoning Michael Schwab, the Chicago anarchist implicated in the celebrated Haymarket riot and sentenced therefore to life imprisonment in the Joliet penitentiary, is shown in the ungrateful manner in which he acknowledges his liberation. At Shelbygan, yesterday, he delivered before an excursion party of disaffected Chicago "reformers" an address that in its incendiary diatribes against wealth, thrift, law and the existing social order is said to exceed in bitterness anything previously emanating from this acidulous agitator.

Now Speed the Bridges. We have received the following communication from a correspondent who is evidently out of patience with the current effort to juggle with the Swastika street bridge: "I would like to ask, as a voter, if the present view taken by some of our worthy councilmen is not an open insult to the voters who so justly and with so large a majority passed the vote for the Linden street and Boarding Brook bridges. The question as to whether Mulberry street is superior and of more use to the public than Linden is, it seems to me, a question unworthy of discussion. Linden is a street suited in every way for a bridge approach, and will always be the direct route to most buildings of importance and places of amusement, while on the other hand Mulberry street is of little use to either Scranton or Hyde Park people. It is a surprise to many that a few are allowed to cause the delay of a public necessity, of so great importance, by desiring a change that benefits no one but themselves. Like Coxey's army, may this detriment to our city's progress be crushed and the good work, as the people intend it, allowed to proceed."

It is possible that no insult is intended in the present effort of certain councilmen to divert the new bridge from Linden to Mulberry street. The effort is more properly dictated by selfish considerations or by an indifference of obligation to the electors because they wanted Linden street and no other. But in either or any contingency, we do not think our correspondent need become alarmed. The Mulberry street project never had substantial support behind it and could not now succeed under any circumstances. It is indeed time, however, to end so much nonsense in this matter and get down to business. The people ratified the bridge project upon the representation that the twin structures would be built as promised, within the promised time and at the estimated cost. Every day of delay impairs the likelihood of fulfilling these promises conscientiously.

AMONG OTHER reasons why citizens of the United States should feel satisfied with their country's prosperity under a protective tariff and not go off on economic sky-larking is this one supplied by Giffen, the eminent English statistician: During the period from 1881-5 to 1891-3 American and German imports have each increased 33 per cent, those of England only 13 per cent, and those of France only 6 per cent. Meantime, in exports we gained 36 per cent, France 14 per cent, England only 10 per cent and Germany less than 6 per cent.

Let us get together now for the new Willies Bar, located at the corner of Mulberry and Linden streets. Getting tired of the old one, eh? No Double Standard. That is certainly a queer condition of American morals when a man who has proved himself unfit to be trusted in the company of any honest woman; a man who, without a qualm, has betrayed the daughter of a friend, deceived his own wife, cast disgrace upon his own children and been a profanation to the religion which he has used as a cloak to hide the rottenness of his real life, may with impunity ask the public to trust him in a public relation, where the temptation to cheat, defraud and deceive is many times multiplied. It is certainly a strange error in the general comprehension of moral standards when William C. P. Breckinridge may plead, not without gaining the credence of many persons, that his private life, in its recent exhibition of insufferable immorality and deceit, should cut no figure in the public consideration of his fitness for official honors.

To this false idea we owe our political scandals, our Tammany conspiracies for the acquirement of public plunder, our Tweed regimens, Murphy "machines" and all the long catalogue of official dereliction that has made our politics a jest among cynical observers. Unless we are ready to surrender the decalogue and to accept as untrue that inspired standard which we call the Golden Rule, it will not do to perpetuate the false idea that our measure of moral responsibility may mean one thing for public servants and another thing for private partners or employees. A morality thus divided cannot stand. Inevitably it must reach the lower instead of the higher level. Inevitably the corruption which exists unchecked in positions of public trust will in time induce similar debauchery in private relations of business.

We do not wish to be regarded as too severe upon this man of great genius and experience when we insist that he cannot, with safety, be re-employed by the people of Lexington district while he maintains the defiant and even haughty attitude of his present canvass for re-nomination. The man who has sinned, however grievously, but who honestly repents, in the humility which makes no boast of what had gone before, may in time be forgiven; but the vain and stubborn sinner, glorying in the nerve which could plan prolonged deceit and gloating over the

common ratio. Whether things are tending in that direction or not I doubt. Whether it would be a public advantage if they did so I doubt. I don't think that anybody has proved yet that there is not enough gold to form the basis of the world's currency. People have got into the habit of saying there is not enough, but I doubt if any considerable proportion of them understand what they are talking about."

THE FAILURE of Mr. Rathbone, Republican, to carry the Third Ohio district, in spite of the fact that it is normally Democratic by several thousand majority, was caused largely by personal unpopularity. Republicans should not take many chances next fall on weak candidates. Too much is at stake.

TALES of the Stage. If the dramatic construction of Dan L. Hart's latest play, "A Daughter of Dixie," which comes to Scranton May 21 and 22, equals the rhetorical effulgence of Mr. Hart's prose address, there can be no question of the play's success. Witness this excerpt: "A conservatory filled with tropical plants, from which floats the odor of roses and jessamine. A spluttering fountain made picturesque by the glow of incandescent light. Adjoining this parlor of white and gold with a brilliantly lighted stairway. The plants of nature framed by the artist's art form a picture of rare beauty. Through the window of the conservatory the pale light of the moon is stealing. It struggles for supremacy with the red glow from the fire in the open fireplace. The sound of a singing bird is heard on the tree in the garden, while from overhead comes the music of the dance. It is Glen Clayborne's birthday and his friends are celebrating the event. As the music rises and falls on the balmy Kentucky air she comes, a vision of loveliness, wrapped in white, the sound of her slipping feet is heard on the tile floor, and the second act of Daniel L. Hart's beautiful drama, 'A Daughter of Dixie,' begins."

Mr. Hart's Scranton friends will be pleased to know that his renown as a playwright has attracted the attention of several noted dramatic critics to his present production at Wilkes-Barre. Prominent among these is Charles Goodhall of the Detroit Free Press, who has repeatedly predicted in print that Mr. Hart would in time become the most successful and fertile American dramatist since the halcyon days of Bartley Campbell. This flattering judgment has been reinforced upon this occasion by a telegraphic order from Mr. Goodhall for a box at the Grand in Wilkes-Barre, on the opening night. He will make the entire trip from Detroit for no other purpose than to write a criticism of Mr. Hart's play.

A striking illustration of the financial uncertainties of stage ventures is given in the history of "Old Kentucky," the lively Southern drama recently produced at the Frothingham. The author, Charles Daisey, an impetuous journalist, hawked the play about the country, meekly enduring the jibes and jeers of managers who declared that the play was "rot" from beginning to end. At last a Milwaukee manager a few months ago was induced to give "Old Kentucky" a trial at a date when attractions were scarce and business was dull. To the surprise of all the play was an instantaneous success. It has already played to a business of over \$100,000, and next season it will be produced by four different companies on the road.

While "Old Kentucky" has traveled the highways of success, many promising plays and stars have been shipwrecked upon what should have been placid seas. Able Ritchie, who was at the head of the Algerian company, cost her backer nearly \$20,000. Katherine Clemmons, who proved a fizzle, cost Buffalo Bill over \$35,000. Lawrence Hanley lost \$10,000 on his short starring tour. Harry Phillips dropped \$5,000 on "Fray Fatch." The "Laughing Girl" went to Fresno and cost with \$5,000 losses. The "Old Soldier" cost its owner \$2,000. James T. Powers is said to have lost over \$10,000 on "Walker, London." The "Voyage of Suzette" cost Mr. French \$12,000. Pauline Hall suffered to the extent of \$5,000 for her experience at Harrigan's theater. L. R. Stockwell went behind over \$7,000 on "Pacjantrum" and Georgia Beattie Bonnell lost over \$5,000 on her starring venture.

The stage career of De Wolf Hopper, the well known comedian, who will appear at the Academy to-morrow evening in "Pacjantrum," dates back almost to his infancy. When a lad of 14 years he formed a dramatic company among the boys of his own age and gave creditable performances in his father's barn. The price of admission charged to these entertainments was thirty pins or one penny. Hopper belongs to the famous De Wolf family of Connecticut. His mother—formerly Miss Rosalie De Wolf—is one of the most charming of women, an accomplished musician and a brilliant conversationalist, and of course is quite proud of her son's rapid stride in the race for fame, although at the beginning of his struggles for histrionic favor she employed every argument to discourage him in what seemed a barren ambition, in the hope that he would ultimately become a lawyer.

At the beginning of his stage career Mr. Hopper was a member of the F. E. Mackay Comedy company, playing small parts, and during the connection with that organization he created the juvenile role of Silas Gordon in an adaptation of an old German comedy by Mr. Mackay. In 1884 he was a member of the famous Madison Square Theater company, and appeared at that pretty playhouse as Pittacus Green in "Hazel Kirks," in the same company with pretty Annie Russell, who played the title role, the veteran actor Charles Couldeek, Mrs. E. L. Davenport, Sydney Covell, and William Morris—who has since become a leading man.

Hopper's first success in comic opera was in the "Boggar Student," when his admirable interpretation of the role of General Oilerdorf made him a general favorite. His solo, "In a Moment of Rapture," was one of the pronounced hits of the opera. Genevieve Reynolds, a stanning English woman, was in that company, and Rosalba Beecher, a gypsy-looking beauty of generous build and fascinating manner, who has since married a rich New Yorker, as well as W. H. Fessenden, the sweet voiced Boston tenor, and Mark Smith, a general favorite, were also in the production. Mr. Hopper's starring tours have been very successful.

ability which binds friends to him despite their better judgment, may be exonerated from punishment without disorganizing the entire economy of morals.

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